

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment filed 20 May 2008 amends claims 1, 7, 13. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 have been cancelled. Applicant's amendment has been fully considered and entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 7, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bahl, U.S. Patent No. 6,957,276, in view of Sato, U.S. Patent No. 7,047,314. Referring to claims 1, 7, 13, Bahl discloses that a client receives a new IP address from a server and compares the IP address to a current IP address to check for an address conflict (Col. 13, lines 56-61), which meets the limitation of a server for distributing addresses for accessing a target network, an originating network, a computer connected to the originating network, the computer identified on the originating network with a first

address, the first address having a first network address, the computer requesting a connection to the target network, the server returning a second address having the second network address to the computer in response to the computer's request, the computer comparing the first and second network address to determine whether there is a conflict. If it is determined that the addresses do conflict, a decline packet is transmitted to the server and a new address is requested (Col. 13, lines 61-67), which meets the limitation of upon making a determination of a conflict between the first and second network addresses, the computer reporting that the second network address is in conflict. Bahl does not disclose performing the address conflict resolution in a VPN environment. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the address conflict resolution of Bahl to be performed in a VPN environment that contains a VPN server in order to protect against IP address collision that prevents VPN sessions from being established as taught by Sato (Col. 2, lines 1-28). Bahl discloses that the server selects new IP addresses from a pool of IP address (Col. 12, lines 35-41), which meets the limitation of the server generates a different network address in response to the computer's report, the server generates the different network address by selecting the different network address from a pool of pre-defined addresses.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Boden, U.S. Patent No. 6,832,322

Boden, U.S Patent No. 6,738,377

Chin, U.S. Publication No. 2005/0076142

Kim, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0218611

Tuomenoksa, U.S. Patent No. 7,028,333

Humbleman, U.S. Patent No. 6,801,507

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN E. LANIER whose telephone number is (571)272-3805. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Benjamin E Lanier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2132